

## General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2024 Archives' Research Report

**Resolution No.:** 2024-D068  
**Title:** Addressing the Increase in Gambling  
**Proposer:** Russell, Ms. Laura  
**Topic:** Addiction

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**Directly Related:** (Attached)

2000-C044      Increase Awareness of the Impact of Gambling and Gaming on Society

**Indirectly Related:** (Available in the [Acts of Convention](#) database, searchable by resolution number)

None

*In preparing this report, the Archives researched the resolutions in the Acts of Convention database for the period 1973 through 2022, selecting “direct” resolutions that have a substantive bearing on the proposed legislation. The “direct” resolutions are attached and “indirect” resolutions are available in the Acts of Convention database. Committee members who require other research assistance should contact the Archives through the [Research Request Form](#).*

# D068 - Addressing the Increase in Gambling

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**Final Status:** Not Yet Finalized

**Proposed by:** Russell, Ms. Laura

**Endorsed by:** Lawton, Ms. Sarah, McDaniel, Mr. Joe

**Has Budget Implications:** No

**Cost:**

**Amends C&C or Rules of Order:** No

**Requests New Interim Body:** No

**Directs an Interim Body:** No

**Directs Dfms Staff:** No

**Directs Dioceses:** No

**Directs Executive Council:** No

**HiA:** HD

**Legislative Committee Currently Assigned:** 16 - Safety, Wellness & Mental Health

**Completion Status:** Incomplete

**Latest House Action:** N/A

**Supporting Documents:**

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## Resolution Text

*Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring,

That the Episcopal Church acknowledge the increase and prevalence of gambling in our society brought about by the ease of access to gambling, whether in person or online; and be it further

*Resolved*, That The Episcopal Church recognize the toll gambling disorders may have on a person, such as anxiety, depression, substance abuse, poverty, and increases in suicidal tendencies, and the elevated risk of gambling disorders in certain communities, such as communities of color, low-income communities and veterans; and be it further

*Resolved*, That The Episcopal Church support efforts to regulate and restrict gambling, including sports wagering, online gambling and casinos; and be it further

*Resolved*, That The Episcopal Church call upon gambling operators to integrate a better approach to gambling in all their communications and designs by creating communications which would alert gamblers to concerns in their habits, not market to children and teens and show the suffering gambling addiction brings on individuals and families; and be it further

*Resolved*, That The Episcopal Church encourage congregations to become familiar with resources for gambling disorders, and advocate for better safeguards for gambling.

## **Explanation**

The U.S. gambling industry is one of the most valuable markets globally, with an estimated 57 million active gamblers visiting casinos, sportsbooks, and online platforms. Approximately 40% of U.S. adults visit a casino at least once a year, and around 85% have gambled in their lifetime. The U.S. has over 2,000 casinos, sportsbooks, and gambling venues, making up roughly a fifth of all such venues worldwide. Roughly half of U.S. states have legalized or regulated online gambling as of 2022, with more expected to expand access in the future.

The Supreme Court of the United States struck the law that had previously prohibited sports gambling. This paved the way for a stunning expansion of sport betting and raised concerns about the potential harm of gambling. Plus, there is very little funding to learn and understand gambling disorders. Many who have it do not seek treatment.

The Episcopal Church must begin to look at this issue. With the advent of online betting, turning even your phone into a casino, the number of those gambling will only continue to rise. Regulations on gambling are new. We must be able to advocate for these protections.



**Resolution Number:** 2000-C044  
**Title:** Increase Awareness of the Impact of Gambling and Gaming on Society  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the 73rd General Convention note with dismay the increase of gambling and gaming in our society and:*

1. **Encourage the clergy and pastoral caregivers of this Church to become familiar with the resources of Gamblers Anonymous ([www.gamblersanonymous.org](http://www.gamblersanonymous.org)) and other organizations, which provide service to problem and addicted gamblers and their families;**
2. **Encourage parishes and church-related organizations to be aware of the inappropriateness of using gambling for fundraising purposes;**
3. **Endorse the recommendations of the bipartisan National Gambling Impact Study Commission for a moratorium on the expansion of gambling in states and localities, and for a gambling impact study to be conducted in each state and locality prior to the introduction or expansion of gambling;**
4. **Ask Executive Council to establish a Task Force on Gambling and Gaming to study the effects of this activity on persons and communities and to report back to the 74th General Convention;**
5. **Urge members, congregations, dioceses, provinces, and the National Church Center to work to end state-sponsored gambling and gaming; and**
6. **Encourage congregations and church related organizations to be inclusive of, and minister to, those persons related to and employed in the gambling industry.**

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Denver, 2000* (New York: General Convention, 2001), p. 365f.